

Central Park, Ladies Pavilion
West side of the Lake,
near Winter Drive
Central Park
New York
New York County
New York

HAER NY-197

HAER
NY,
31-NEYO,
153F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

CENTRAL PARK, LADIES PAVILION
HAER NY-197 (Page 1)

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CENTRAL PARK, LADIES PAVILION
HAER NY-197

Location: West side of the Lake, near Winter Drive, Central Park, New York, New York County, New York.

Date of Construction: 1871.

Present Owner: New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Present Use: Outdoor pavilion.

Significance: The Ladies Pavilion reflects the philosophies of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the original planners of Central Park. Olmsted and Vaux wanted to create a setting which harmonized nature and urban life. As a result, they believed all forms should spring from natural prototypes. J. Wrey Mould, Calvert Vaux's chief draftsman after 1859, designed the Ladies Pavilion with these ideas in mind: Mould's design uses plant forms as its inspiration. The structure also is significant as an example of then-new cast iron technology, which allowed the creation of such fluid shapes for the first time. Several of the bridges in Central Park and at least one other structure, the Music Pavilion, were made using cast iron. Built in 1871, the pavilion was restored in 1971.

Source: "Cast Iron Bridges in Central Park." Pamphlet published by the Friends of Cast Iron Architecture, New York City, New York. No date.

Historian: Robert Buerglener, HABS/HAER Historian, August, 1988.

It is understood that access to this material rests on the condition that should any of it be used in any form or by any means, the author of such material and the Historic American Engineering Record of the National Park Service at all times be given proper credit.